

## NEXT MOVE IN THE BALKANS.

## RUSSIA TO PUT NEW PRESSURE ON THE SULTAN?

Glimpse of Conflicting Interests at Work in Present Crisis—Serious Fighting Probable in Next Few Weeks—250,000 Turkish Troops to the Front.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

From the Special Correspondent of THE SUN.  
SOFIA, Bulgaria, April 25.—Three weeks spent in gathering information at first hand among the highest authorities in Constantinople, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Serbia, including those entitled to express the views of Turkey, Russia, Great Britain and the other great Powers, and the leaders of the insurrectionists, enable me to speak with a certain amount of confidence of some of the features of the crisis which is reshaping the destinies of this portion of the world.

It would merely be absurd to pretend to separate with accuracy truth from falsehood in the great mass of contradictory material which has come before me. On the other hand, some facts and conclusions may be set down without reservation.

I must claim indulgence if I speak too dogmatically. It is necessary, because I am not at liberty in many instances to name the authority for my statements. Moreover, it is not possible within the limits of a cable despatch to go into corroborative details, which I hope to supply more adequately by mail.

My first statement will seem a paradox to most readers, namely that the only people who seem to be sincere in the desire for a certain measure of reform in the Balkans are the Turks. The reason is simple. The Sultan desires to maintain the status quo in the peninsula.

His task of controlling the irreconcilable races and religions in Macedonia is almost impossible under any system of government and measures which are ordinarily regarded as severe and oppressive are absolutely necessary. It is quite true that the Turkish measures have been far too oppressive, cruel and corrupt.

The Sultan believes that any extensive relaxation would eventually result in one or the other elements of the population gaining the upper hand. He is willing to yield, however, as much as he considers would not imperil his sovereignty.

The Bulgarian and Macedonian insurrectionists raise the reform cry solely for outside effect. No greater disappointment could come to them than to see genuine reforms introduced under Turkish auspices voluntarily or otherwise. They aspire for nothing short of independence, although they usually veil their ambition under the term autonomy.

It is the conviction of almost every competent observer that independent Macedonia would mean nothing short of the blackest anarchy throughout the land.

Perhaps it is best to explain that the insurrectionists have a larger scheme, which was explained to me the other day by their chief leader with an enthusiasm which was almost fanatical. He desired he said, to form a Balkan, or, as he expressed it, a south Slav federation, consisting of Bulgaria, Serbia, Albania, Macedonia and Roumania.

The object of this federation would be to prevent both pan-Russian and pan-German expansion, and he aspired to secure the active support of Great Britain and France. It would be useless to point out to him the absurd impracticability of his scheme in the present situation.

Turning to the larger aspect of the situation, it must be admitted that Russia has fully convinced the representatives of all the Powers at Constantinople of the desirability of her desire to avoid military intervention at the present moment. This belief is coupled equally with the strong conviction that the Czar's Government likewise does not desire a permanent settlement of the Balkan question. A brief postponement, not genuine reform, is Russia's real desire. Her status in Manchuria must first be settled, and it is expected that she will press it to the nearest conclusion.

Regarding Russia's next move, I quote an extract from a conversation with a Muscovite statesman a few days ago:

"We expect nothing whatever from the Sultan in the way of reforms in the present situation," he remarked cynically. "We have never deluded ourselves on this point. He will do nothing practical until very strong pressure is brought to bear on him, and this will be done soon."

I suggested that his language implied very grave measures.

"No, you misunderstand me," was his reply. "I mean moral pressure, not military intervention."

But when, with some surprise, I expressed the prevailing opinion that the resources of moral influence in that direction had been exhausted, the answer was most emphatic, that this was a mistaken idea, that events would prove before long that pressure could be put upon the Sultan which would compel him to yield to all the demands of the Powers, and that this effect would be produced without moving a battalion or firing a shot. I came away sceptical, but puzzled.

There must always be borne in mind the terrible danger involved in pressing the ruler of the Turkish Empire too far. The last time the Powers adopted a peremptory tone in demanding reforms of the Sultan was in connection with the Armenian massacres in Asia Minor.

Abdül's reply was the slaughter of 8,000 Armenians under the nose of the Ambassadors at Constantinople itself. The Powers did nothing, and the subject of reform has not been mentioned to the Sultan from that day until the present crisis.

I have abundant reason to know that the Turks fully recognize the possibility of Russia driving them out of Constantinople and that such is Russia's ambition and purpose.

When the moment comes, however, the conflict will take the form of a religious war, and it is the greatest aspiration of every Moslem to perish for his faith. To turn the ominous words of an eminent Turk on this subject a few days ago in Constantinople:

"When we leave Constantinople every foreigner here will go with us."

This would mean the massacre of more than 100,000 Europeans, a danger which is constantly before the Ambassadors to the Porte, and one which some believe may at any day become a real one.

Regarding the immediate prospects, there have been signs for the past few days of a lack of sufficient cohesion among the Macedonian-Bulgarian insurrectionists to bring about a general rebellion. Fighting there certainly will be in the next few weeks with increasing seriousness in various parts of Macedonia and Albania. The situation in the latter province is unquestionably giving the Sultan greater anxiety than Macedonia.

I do not pretend to be able to judge from the conflicting evidence whether the Albanian rebellion is spontaneous, whether it was instigated in the Sultan's own interest to discredit the reform scheme, or was possibly organized in Austria's interest.

## FINNS DRIVEN INTO EXILE.

## RUSSIAN GOVERNOR CREATES A REIGN OF TERROR.

A Count, a Publisher, a Lawyer and a Brother of the Russian Vice-Consul Arrested and Their Houses Searched—Banishment for the Victims.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 25.—A despatch from a correspondent of the Times at Helsinki, under date of April 22, is so striking that it is worth reproducing. The correspondent says:

"To-day has been a blank day in the history of Finland. It witnessed the inauguration of a reign of terror, which, by the ordinance of April 22 and the receipt of April 9, Gen. Bobrikoff, the Governor, has been authorized to establish."

"We have been free men for 700 years," said a well-known Finn this morning, "but to-day we have become Russian serfs."

The correspondent goes on to recall the fact that Gov. Bobrikoff returned to Finland with authority to drive into exile, without legal process, any one whose presence in the country he regarded as objectionable. The first four victims on the 22d of April were Count Mennerheim and Messrs. Castren, Hamalainen and Wolf.

The Count was one of the most popular and most prominent members in Finnish society. His house was surrounded by police and detectives at 7 o'clock in the morning. He was presented with a document signed by Gen. Kaligorodoff, the Governor of Nyland, ordering him to leave the country within seven days. Nerves were shattered by his banishment. In the event of his returning without permission he will be transported to any part of Russia chosen by Gen. Bobrikoff.

The Chief of Police then requested the Count to sign a promise that he would not participate in any meeting whatsoever, and would not allow himself to be the object of any demonstration during the seven days he would be allowed to remain in the country. The Count refused. The police then searched his house and seized the private correspondence of the Count and Countess. But the search was so desultory that it was obvious they had not expected to find anything compromising.

The banishment of the Count is regarded as an act of private revenge on the part of Gen. Kaligorodoff, who a year ago forced himself into a private concert which was given by the Countess in behalf of charity. The Count requested him to leave pointing out that admission was only by invitation.

Of the other victims Hamalainen is a retired publisher and bookseller, Castren is a barrister and popular speaker and Wolf is a brother of the British Vice-Consul who was dismissed at the request of the Russian Government. Wolf's house was surrounded by 150 dragoons and searched at 3 o'clock in the morning, but nothing incriminating was found.

He had always kept aloof from politics. His brother, the former Vice-Consul, was also banished.

Another raid was made at 7 o'clock in the morning on Baroness von Boren, a woman of 79, who was in bed, convalescing from a recent stroke of paralysis. Nine policemen entered the house and proceeded to make a search. They wished to enter the bedroom of the Baroness, but desisted when entreated to do so by her daughter. It is reported that the military are occupying her son's estate, sixty miles from Helsinki. The Baron when questioned on this subject over the telephone replied that he was not permitted to give any information.

## MOLESKINS FASHIONABLE.

King Edward Starts a Craze and the Women Take It.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 25.—The fashion of wearing mole skin was recently revived by the King, who has been wearing a mole skin waistcoat.

Mole catchers all over the country are straining all their energies to collect the skins, and thousands are reaching the great furriers every day from all parts of the United Kingdom and the Continent.

Four thousand came in one consignment to a Bond street firm, which says it cannot get too many. The women are also wearing mole skin muffs, stoles, jackets and motor-garments and even gauntlet gloves made out of this skin.

One pair of the gloves contains forty skins, the price of which in the rough that had been used formerly was about a penny, but now averages eight pence apiece. The fashion is expensive, as the skins are very scarce.

## DEFY LAW OF ASSOCIATIONS.

Catholic Bishops in French Towns Refuse to Comply With It.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, April 25.—The Roman Catholic Bishops of Bayeux, Clermont, Limoges, Moulins, Cambrai and La Rochelle have refused to comply with the Government circulars in regard to the Law of Associations.

This places M. Combes, the Prime Minister, in a quandary. He must either ignore their refusal or suppress the salaries of a majority of the episcopate.

The Bishops of Quimper and Mende have ordered the clergy to conform to the rules laid down in the circulars, while the Bishop of Rouen has sent a letter to his subordinates in which he quotes the Pope's refusal to be conciliatory in the extreme point permitted by the laws of God and the dictates of their conscience.

## DIAZ TO AID FRANCISCO REYES.

He Fled From Monterey and Seeks to Be Governor of Nuevo Leon.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

MEXICO CITY, April 25.—Francisco Reyes, candidate for Governor of the State of Nuevo Leon, who fled from Monterey immediately after the recent political riot at that place, to escape being assassinated, is still here.

It is said on reliable authority that President Diaz has given Reyes assurances of his support in Reyes's candidacy for Governor. This assurance, if it has been given, is equivalent to election.

Gen. Bernardo Reyes, former Secretary of War, is Francisco Reyes's opponent for the office. The latter is now the Constitutional Governor of Nuevo Leon.

Although the two candidates are of the same name, they are not related.

## THE SHOOTING OF MCKINLEY.

## Incident in History That Most Appeals to English Author Shaw.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 25.—George Bernard Shaw, the author and journalist, who was asked, with a number of other well-known people, by a newspaper called V.C. to name an incident in history which most appealed to him, wrote:

"The shooting of President McKinley by Col. Gage. I commend this as an undeniable instance that cannot be capped to the most serious consideration of a journal which is entirely upon a propaganda of Victoria Cross courage."

## BRITISH BLOW AT MULLAH.

## Gen. Manning Kills 2,000 of the Enemy on the Way to Believa Cobbe.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, April 25.—Word has been received here that Gen. Manning, on hearing of the slaughter of Col. Cobbe's forces on April 17 in Somaliland by the Mad Mullah's followers, started at once to relieve Cobbe with 380 men. He sent Major Kenna with 100 mounted infantrymen in advance.

Major Kenna reached Col. Cobbe on the afternoon of April 18 without meeting any opposition. Gen. Manning, on the route, engaged the Mullah's forces and killed 2,000 of them. The British losses are not given. Col. Cobbe's force was relieved.

Further details have been received of the fighting between the British and the forces of the Mad Mullah in Somaliland before the action in which the British suffered so severely.

These show that on April 14 the enemy, who were completely concealed, attacked Col. Cobbe's forces in the thick brush. The guide had led the British forces sixteen miles out of the way. The British camel battery went into action and the enemy retired.

Col. Cobbe, however, was without water and was compelled to retreat toward Galadi. On April 18 the enemy surrounded a patrol of riflemen under command of Capt. Shalvey. A Lieutenant was killed and three men were wounded. The enemy suffered a loss of fifteen.

The dervishes who wiped out the little force of Col. Plunkett and Capt. Olvey on April 17 numbered 2,000 horsemen and 10,000 spearmen.

## GERMAN ART CIRCLES STIRRED.

Conflict Between Dresden Art Union and Fair Commissioner.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

BERLIN, April 25.—Some differences have arisen between the German Art Union of Dresden and Dr. Lewald, the German Commissioner-General to the St. Louis Exposition, over the question of exhibits at the fair and the committee that is to select them.

The Art Union selected March 28 as the date for a meeting of delegates at Dresden to consider this question and invited Dr. Lewald to be present. He replied that he was about to sail for America and could not attend, whereupon the union postponed the meeting until early in June.

Later, Dr. Lewald notified the union that a meeting of delegates would be held in Berlin on April 4, at which the question of leaving the union to select the works for exhibition at St. Louis or constituting a new general committee for that purpose would be discussed.

The union sent no delegates to Berlin, so a new committee on exhibits was formed. The union has now entered a protest against this committee. There is a division of opinion in art circles over the question.

## SMUGGLING CASES DROPPED.

Chief Head of Porto Rico Internal Revenue Service Resigns.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

SAN JUAN, P. R., April 25.—J. S. Hord, chief of the internal revenue service of Porto Rico, has resigned. His resignation was due to his action in prosecuting smugglers in the insular courts without consulting Mr. Willoughby, the Treasurer of the island. Mr. Willoughby's comments on Mr. Hord's action were such as to cause the latter to give up his post.

The cases against the army and navy and other smugglers have been dropped. The accused have paid the administrative fines into the insular treasury.

## HAVANA DRUGGISTS MAY CLOSE.

Because of Tax Imposed on Patent Medicines and Aerial Waters.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

HAVANA, April 25.—The druggists of Havana province threaten to close tomorrow on account of the tax of two cents on each bottle or package of patent medicines and aerial waters imposed by the provincial council of Havana. The latter body has refused to repeal the tax, which, it is estimated, will produce \$230,000 in three months.

## NEW CAMPANILE IN VENICE.

Cornerstone Laid by Count of Turin, Who Represented the King.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

VENICE, April 25.—The cornerstone of the new campanile was laid today, the feast day of St. Mark, by the Count of Turin, who represented the King. Thirty thousand enthusiastic spectators witnessed the ceremony.

Giuseppe Sarto, the Cardinal Patriarch of Venice, and M. Chaumie, the French Minister of Fine Arts, were among those present.

## Gen. Gomez Leaves for St. Louis.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

HAVANA, April 25.—Gen. Maximo Gomez left for St. Louis today by way of Tampa. He will attend the dedicatory exercises on April 30 as the guest of the exposition managers. He was accompanied by Senor Oscar Font, the Sub-Secretary of Finance.

## For a Chapel at Nice.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, April 25.—Harold S. Van Buren, the American Consul at Nice, is trying to obtain authorization for the establishment of the Sacre Coeur chapel at that place.

## WARRANTS FOR 32 STUDENTS.

Young Men of St. Lawrence University Celebrated Tree Holiday Yesterday.

UTICA, April 25.—The celebration of Tree holiday at St. Lawrence University in Canton began with some of the students last night, and as a result warrants were sworn out for twenty-two of the young men. The fun began at the Opera House, where the students had gathered in force in the gallery. When the curtain rolled up they pelled the players with beans and shuffled cards down upon the heads of the audience. The management were unable to prevent the students from continuing their order, varying the programme by singing college songs and drowning out the voices of the actors. They were finally obliged to leave, and carried away a bill-board with them. The police rescued that, and the fun wound up around an ale keg. It is doubtful if the criminal proceedings will be pressed.

## Amalgamated Meat Cutters Strike.

CHICAGO, April 25.—After their demands for the reinstatement of one of their members had been ignored and the business agent of the union had been rebuffed, the members of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workers Union composed of 260 men and 150 girls decided today to strike at the plant of N. K. Fairbank & Co., unless George Wilson is reinstated by Tuesday.

## Strike on a Petty Matter at Sugar Notch.

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., April 25.—Mine workers at the No. 9 colliery of the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company, at Sugar Notch struck this morning. Last night twenty came upon the cage, and this being more than the law allows, all off their machines. The mine was shut down on strike and the mine was shut down.

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At all stores, or by mail for the price.

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225 rolls, at 92½¢ a yard, formerly \$1.35 a yard.

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A VERY ATTRACTIVE COLLECTION OF DRESSY SUMMER HATS

in White and light colors is shown (including many "LINGERIE HATS," both imported and adaptations), in Trimmed Millinery Department on Third Floor.

ATTENTION IS DIRECTED TO A RECENT IMPORTATION OF

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A number of IMPORTED NOVELTY WRAPS and COATS HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO One-Half their Original Prices.

LACES.

On MONDAY and TUESDAY, April 27th and 28th, a Sale will be held of

10,000 Yards of Superior Quality Lace Edges, Galleons and Insertings, heretofore 90c. to \$6.75 per yard, at 55c., 95c., 1.38, 1.95 to 3.85 per yard. (Rear of Rotunda.)

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Recent importations include new subjects in Vienna decorated Porcelain Plaques, \$175.00 to \$450.00

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SEPARATE DRESS SKIRTS and Walking Skirts in a variety of styles and materials.

For TUESDAY, April 28th,

Demi-Tailor Gowns of Canvas in Blue and Black (new models), lined throughout with Taffeta silk, \$28.00

Plaid Dress Skirts of Canvas, in Blue and Black, on Taffeta silk lining, \$16.00

Eighteenth Street, Nineteenth Street, Sixth Avenue, New York.

SENT VERSES AND A CHECK.

Contributions of Bloodgood H. Cutter, the Farmer Poet, to a Church.

LITTLE ROCK, L. I., April 25.—Age cannot quench the fountain of poetic fervor in the kindly heart of Bloodgood H. Cutter, traveler, author and poet. Bearing lightly the burden of eighty-odd years which have turned his sparse locks to a snow white, his spirits are as fresh and bright as they were sixty years ago. In aid of Zion Episcopal Church, in Douglass, the other day, he sent the Rev. Albert T. Bentley a substantial contribution. It was in the form of a check filled out in blank verse. But the check was only a part of the poet's contribution. It was accompanied by these verses:

When at my house I saw your zeal,  
Toward you I did gratefully feel,  
So earnestly for funds did plead  
That Zion Church from debt be freed.

To preach in church from mortgage debt  
Did worry on and make you fret,  
That you determined you would try  
To raise the funds, to friends apply.

By the firm course you did pursue  
It did prove so successful, too,  
That you determined you would try  
To raise the funds, to friends apply.

You told me how the toll was great,  
On many hearts the other day,  
When you responded to your call,  
You seemed so thankful to them all.

I hope you will successful prove,  
In raising the mortgage on the dove,  
Not only love, but life you save,  
When they lie in their silent grave.

CAPT. SEERGA'S FATAL FALL.

His Skull is Fractured at His Home in Plainfield, N. J.

PLAINFIELD, N. J., April 25.—While descending the stairs at his home on Park avenue last evening Capt. Albert von Bretton Seeraga, fell headlong to the bottom, fracturing his skull. Death was instantaneous. He had been captain of several large steamers and up to a short time before his death was agent for a line of steamships plying between Liverpool and New Orleans. He was 78 years old and was born at St. Thomas, V. I. He is survived by a wife and two children, Frederick and Martha.

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